

CLAIMS:

1. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which has at least 85% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:2.
2. An isolated polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 in which the amino acid sequence has at least 95% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:2.
3. The polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
4. An isolated polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.
5. An immunogenic fragment of the polypeptide as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 in which the immunogenic activity of said immunogenic fragment is substantially the same as the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.
6. A polypeptide as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5 wherein said polypeptide is part of a larger fusion protein.
7. An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6.
8. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide that has at least 85% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:2; or a nucleotide sequence complementary to said isolated polynucleotide.
9. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 85% identity to a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 over the entire coding region; or a nucleotide sequence complementary to said isolated polynucleotide.

10. An isolated polynucleotide which comprises a nucleotide sequence which has at least 85% identity to that of SEQ ID NO:1 over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:1; or a nucleotide sequence complementary to said isolated polynucleotide.

5

11. The isolated polynucleotide as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 10 in which the identity is at least 95% to SEQ ID NO:1.

10 12. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

13. An isolated polynucleotide comprising the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1.

15 14. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, obtainable by screening an appropriate library under stringent hybridization conditions with a labeled probe having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof.

20 15. An expression vector or a recombinant live microorganism comprising an isolated polynucleotide according to any one of claims 7 - 14.

16. A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 15 or a subcellular fraction or a membrane of said host cell expressing an isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 85% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

25

17. A process for producing a polypeptide of claims 1 to 6 comprising culturing a host cell of claim 16 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide and recovering the polypeptide from the culture medium.

30

18. A process for expressing a polynucleotide of any one of claims 7 – 14 comprising transforming a host cell with the expression vector comprising at least one of said polynucleotides and culturing said host cell under conditions sufficient for expression of any one of said polynucleotides.

5

19. A vaccine composition comprising an effective amount of the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 6 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10 20. A vaccine composition comprising an effective amount of the polynucleotide of any one of claims 7 to 14 and a pharmaceutically effective carrier.

21. The vaccine composition according to either one of claims 19 or 20 wherein said composition comprises at least one other *Moraxella catarrhalis* antigen.

15 22. An antibody immunospecific for the polypeptide or immunological fragment as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6.

20 23. A method of diagnosing a *Moraxella catarrhalis* infection, comprising identifying a polypeptide as claimed in any one of claims 1 - 6, or an antibody that is immunospecific for said polypeptide, present within a biological sample from an animal suspected of having such an infection.

25 24. Use of a composition comprising an immunologically effective amount of a polypeptide as claimed in any one of claims 1 – 6 in the preparation of a medicament for use in generating an immune response in an animal.

25. Use of a composition comprising an immunologically effective amount of a polynucleotide as claimed in any one of claims 7 - 14 in the preparation of a medicament for use in generating an immune response in an animal.

30

26. A therapeutic composition useful in treating humans with *Moraxella catarrhalis* disease comprising at least one antibody directed against the polypeptide of claims 1 – 6 and a suitable pharmaceutical carrier.

add
a
5